

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-04

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R 191205Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9426

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0415

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, SU, ET, KE, CG

SUBJECT: GLOOMY SUDANESE COMMENTS RE ETHIOPIA, SOMALIA
AND KENYA

1. CYRUS SULZBERGER OF THE NEW YORK TIMES HAS BEEN VISITING KHARTOUM FEB 15-20 IN RESPONSE EX-FONMIN MANSOUR KHALID'S PERSONAL INVITATION. WHILE KHALID HAD ASSURED SULZBERGER HE COULD INTERVIEW NIMEIRI FEB 16, APPOINTMENT NOT SO FAR ARRANGED, SINCE NIMEIRI HAS BEEN ILL WITH FLU AND KHALID EVIDENTLY NO LONGER DISPOSES OF SUFFICIENT INFLUENCE TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENT DIRECTLY. HOWEVER, KHALID DID ENTERTAIN SULZBERGER AT SMALL DINNER LAST NIGHT AND PAINTED FOR SULZBERGER GLOOMY PICTURE RE AFRICA'S FUTURE. FOLLOWING ARE KEY POINTS MADE BY KHALID. (SULZBERGER MUST BE PROTECTED AS SOURCE SINCE ALL INFO HE OBTAINED ON BACKGROUND.)

2. ETHIOPIA: KHALID, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM OAU COMMITTEE OF SEVEN MEETING ADDIS, ASSERTED THAT PMAC WOULD NOT BE ABLE ACCEPT NIMEIRI'S MEDIATION OFFER, SINCE PMAC ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO ANY POSSIBILITY INDEPENDENCE FOR ERITREA AND WILL NOT EVEN AGREE TO
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CEASEFIRE AS LONG AS ARAB ARMS CONTINUING REACH

ERITREAN GUERRILLAS. SITUATION THUS LIKELY CONTINUE DETERIORATE. DIRG MEMBERS INCLUDED UNEDUCATED, AND EVEN ILLITERATE, MILITARY TYPES WHO WILL BE UTTERLY UNABLE COPE WITH INCREASINGLY CRITICAL PROBLEMS. ERITREAN INSURGENCY THUS LIKELY TO DEVELOP INTO MAJOR RUNNING SORE SEVERELY UNDERMINING HEALTH OF ETHIOPIAN STATE OVER PROTRACTED PERIOD, IF NOT SOUNDING DEATH KNELL FOR INTEGRITY OF STATE.

3. SOMALIA AND KENYA: IN LIGHT GLOOMY PROGNOSIS RE ETHIOPIA, SOMALIA COULD BE EXPECTED SOONER OR LATER RESORT TO MILITARY FORCE TO SETTLE OGADEN ISSUE. KENYA IS LIKELY TO COME APART WHENEVER KENYATTA GOES. THIS COULD HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTEGRITY ZAIRE AND ELSEWHERE.

4. COMMENT. GENERALIZED COMMENTS RE ERITREAN CRISIS AND SUBSTANCE PARA 3 ABOVE BEING INCLUDED IN SULZBERGER COLUMN, DATELINED KHARTOUM, WHICH HE FILING FROM CAIRO FEB 20. VIRTUALLY ALL INFO CONTAINED THEREIN COMES FROM HIS DINNER CONVERSATION WITH KHALID, ALSO ATTENDED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL ZAKI MUSTAPHA AND MINTRANSPORT BASHIR ABBADI. KHALID'S COMMENTS WERE NO DOUBT COLORED BY RECENT DECLINE HIS POLITICAL FORTUNES, WHILE SULZBERGER HIMSELF DISGRUNTLED BY HIS

FAILURE INTERVIEW NIMEIRI. I SUGGESTED TO SULZBERGER OUTLOOK MIGHT BE AS GRIM IN AFRICA AS HIS COLUMN WOULD SUGGEST. HE MADE SEVERAL MINOR EMENDATIONS BUT OBVIOUSLY HOPES FILE SOMETHING DRAMATIC TO JUSTIFY HIS FOUR DAY STAY.
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